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Current Events

[Edited by Clarence W. Gleason, Roxbury Latin School, Boston, Mass., for the territory covered by the Association of New England and the Atlantic States; Daniel W. Lothman, East High School, Cleveland, Ohio, for the Middle States, west to the Mississippi River; Walter Miller, the University of Missouri, Columbia, Mo., for the Southern States; and Franklin H. Potter, the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, for the territory of the Association west of the Mississippi, exclusive of Louisiana and Texas. News from the Pacific Coast may be sent to Miss Julianne A. Roller, Franklin High School, Portland, Ore., and to Miss Bertha Green, Hollywood High School, Los Angeles, Cal. This department will present everything that is properly news—occurrences from month to month, meetings, changes in faculties, performances of various kinds, etc. All news items should be sent to the associate editors named above.]

District of Columbia

Washington.—Mr. Mark W. Eckels, a student of Miss Alice Clark's in the Central High School, sends us the first issue of *Praeco Capitolinus*, a bi-weekly three-page mimeographed sheet edited by him and two fellow-students. It is entirely in Latin and is highly creditable to both teacher and class. The method employed in editing the *Praeco* is thus described by Mr. Eckels:

Our teacher, Miss Alice Clark, teaches us by the direct method, which makes for an interesting class. The best pupils each have some special work to perform, as an extra feature. One boy has charge of a bulletin board, on which are pasted advertisements of products with Latin names, such as Lux, Corona, Simplex. The class has found about a hundred varieties. Another boy, who is artistically gifted, draws pictures on the blackboard of scenes and figures which we are studying. Another puts a Latin motto on the board daily, while another contributes a daily weather report in Latin.

This outside work is recorded by a committee, which decides each week who has done the most valuable special work. Whoever wins this honor three times wins the contest. Some pupils help backward pupils and absentees, and even some beginners not in our class; others look up special subjects, and report on them to the class.

Kentucky

Paris.—A Classical Day was held under the auspices of the high school at Paris, Kentucky, under the chairmanship of Miss Elizabeth Roff, the teacher of Latin. The principal address was an illustrated lecture on "Ancient and Medieval Illustrated Books," by Dr. John Miller Burnam, of the University of Cincinnati. Among other discussions was one by Dean Thomas McCartney, of Transylvania College, who showed, from the experience of the Great War, the importance of classical training in fitting men to meet emergencies with promptness and intelligence. Professor H. D. Cannon, of

the Louisville Boys' High School, made a plea for more consideration of the teaching problems and conditions in high schools, on the part of college departments of Latin, particularly in the setting of college entrance examinations. Professor R. H. Ellett, of North Middletown, urged the importance of syntax after the first year in development of the feeling for English grammar. Professor T. T. Jones, of the University of Kentucky, discussed the question of the amount of reading per year in high-school Latin. Wren Jones Grinstead, of the Eastern State Normal, presented the results of an experimental investigation into the value of a one-year course in Latin. The president's address, and the address of welcome by Rev. T. S. Smiley, together with the round table discussion of the set addresses, aroused much interest and brought out many points of value in regard to the teaching of the classics. A feature which added marked interest and pleasure to the meeting was the rendering of numerous Latin songs, sacred and secular, by the Paris high-school choir, and the singing of "Quis est Homo," from the *Stabat Mater* of Rossini, by Miss Blanding and Mrs. Duncan. The department of home economics was hostess at a luncheon to the out-of-town visitors.

As the meeting was widely representative of the classical teachers of the state, it was resolved to organize into a Kentucky Classical Association. The officers elected were: president, Elizabeth Roff, Paris; vice-president, George T. Ragland, Georgetown; secretary-treasurer, Wren Jones Grinstead, Richmond. The committee on organization, with T. T. Jones of Lexington as chairman, was continued, with instructions to communicate with the Classical Association of the Middle West and South, with a view to affiliation. The chairman of this committee announced that the Kentucky vice-president of that association (M. A. Leiper, of Bowling Green) intended to resign; and the association voted to nominate Miss Elizabeth Roff to that position.

Maine

At Bates College, members of the Phil-Hellenic Club performed the *Hippolytus* of Euripides, Friday evening, March 12, using Professor Murray's translation. This club, which was organized several years ago, is composed of students who have had at least one year of Greek in college, or three years in preparatory school. Its activities have done much to promote interest in the classics, by means of regular meetings, an annual banquet in the form of a Greek symposium, courtesies extended to the Greek residents of Lewiston and received from them, and occasional public performances. In previous years the club has presented the *Alcestis* and the *Antigone*, but this year's performance of *Hippolytus* outclasses its former dramatic efforts. All the parts were creditably taken, and those of Phaedra and Theseus were played with genuine tragic power. In at least two scenes—the despair of Phaedra when she learns that her secret is betrayed, and the death of Hippolytus—the audience was gripped with deep emotion. The choral parts were not sung, but were recited in unison by a group of young women whose voices

blended harmoniously. The performance moved from beginning to end without halt or interruption, and left upon the audience a profound impression of exquisite beauty and pathetic human interest.

All the work of preparation was done by the students of the club, unaided except by suggestions from the professor of Greek and a very limited amount of coaching by the professor of public speaking. Members of the club constructed the scenery and prepared all the costumes. Effective lighting of the stage was arranged by members of the physics department.

Two of the cast of actors, Constantine Zariphes, who took the part of Theseus, and Peter Dukakis, who portrayed Hippolytus, are young men of Greek birth, members of the Sophomore class.

Michigan

Detroit.—With the general dropping of Greek from high-school curricula, it is refreshing, now and then, to find public schools in which the subject is still studied. Such schools are the Northwestern High School and the Central High School of Detroit, as is shown by the following article, which was sent in by Miss Dorothy Roehm and Miss Isabella R. Watt, teachers of Latin and Greek in the Northwestern and Central high schools respectively.

In presenting the subject of Greek to the students of Northwestern High School, an effort has been made to let the language plead its own cause. This has been done by the use of translations. With the definite purpose of reading these selections a Greek Club was organized two years ago of the members of the Greek classes, and all students in school who have studied the language. Meetings are held every two weeks, at which time programs are presented by members. For example, such plays as the *Medea*, the *Antigone*, and the *Frogs*, or selections from Theocritus and Lucian have been read and have proved interesting as well as profitable.

Besides the literary work, the students have indulged in a number of other activities. Last year a party was given for all the Latin students in the school. This took the form of a mock Olympic festival. Races of all kinds followed, the winners being ceremoniously crowned. The chariot race, executed with "kiddie cars," proved the most popular of all.

The visit to the Greek school in the city aroused great interest. The high-school students were delighted to hear the bright Greek children read and write with such ease a language which presented such difficulties to them. At the close of the lesson the club members immediately presented their own Greek books for the children to read and were separated with difficulty from their little teachers. The children openly begged for the papers that were passed around for inspection or surreptitiously concealed them in books as souvenirs of value.

At present the department consists of two classes, one of eighteen, beginning grammar; and one of eight, reading Xenophon. The time of the two-year course is divided as follows: one year for grammar, with some

work in Xenophon, a semester and a half for Xenophon, and the remaining half semester for Homer.

The Central High School of Detroit offers a Greek course of two and one-half years, consisting of a year of grammar, a year in Xenophon, and a half year in Homer's *Iliad*. In the last four years the number of students in the first year's work has averaged sixteen; and although a number of these students began their Greek too late in their high-school course to take more than one or two years, still for three years the number of students in Xenophon has averaged eleven, and in Homer, seven. In January of this year a beginning class of twenty-two and a Xenophon class of thirteen have been enrolled. In the Homer class one student, a modern Greek, studied his Attic Greek and Xenophon in Athens, and his reading of Homer is most interesting, if not at all times intelligible to the class.

Ohio

Painesville.—The Freshman class in Latin at Lake Erie College recently prepared a collection of material on the everyday uses of Latin and Greek. Clippings from magazines were mounted in scrapbooks and exhibited in the college library. The humorous use of Greek and Latin allusions, in cartoons and otherwise, proved a very attractive feature.

Texas

Milford.—A *Roman Wedding*, by Susan Paxson, presented in the original by the Latin classes of the Texas Presbyterian College was a decided success. This was the first play of the kind ever given here, and was directed by Miss Caroline Jenks, head of the Latin department, who was untiring in her efforts to make all the appointments realistic and to teach thus the customs, costumes, and decorations of the early Romans. The scenery, which was made by the instructors and pupils, represented the interior of a Roman house, being as accurate a reproduction as possible of a house actually unearthed in the excavations at Pompeii. Each one performed her part well, and the Latin words might have been the mother-tongue, so readily were they used. "America," sung in Latin by the academy classes, closed the program. Miss Jenks was assisted by Miss Pfeiffer, also of the Latin faculty. The directors may well be proud of the success of their efforts.

The Latin classes of one or two of the nearby high schools and many other people from neighboring towns attended the play.

Washington

Spokane.—Miss Annette Francisco, of the foreign language department of the North Central High School, writes as follows:

I am inclosing a copy of a very interesting program that was given in Spokane, April 5, at the annual meeting of the Interstate Inland Empire Teachers' Association. Dr. Axtell thought that you might be able to use it in the *Classical Journal*. The

meeting was considered the best both in attendance and interest of any that we have had. In the business meeting we decided to send out a circular letter at regular intervals containing matters of interest to the teachers of Latin and Greek, such as a list of Latin plays suitable for high schools, hints on costuming, notes on what other departments are doing, etc.

Chairman, Dr. Harold L. Axtell, Moscow, Idaho

Secretary, Annette Francisco, Spokane, Washington

During the Luncheon—

Latin Song—Marguerite Miller, North Central High School, Spokane, Washington

Verses—"Aeneas, the Traveling Man"—I. C. Libby, Lewis and Clark High School, Spokane, Washington

Latin Song—Delmar Ruble, North Central High School, Spokane, Washington

Discussion—"The Place of Latin in Teaching American Citizenship"

The First and Second Years' Work—Victoria Hruska, Wallace, Idaho

The Third and Fourth Years' Work—Anne Fulton, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho

Business meeting and election of officers

Wisconsin

University of Wisconsin.—On Friday, March 19, at 8:00 P.M., Professor John Adams Scott, of Northwestern University, gave an address before the Language and Literature Club of the University of Wisconsin. Subject: "Reasons Which Have Convinced Me of Homeric Unity." The address was his president's address delivered at Pittsburgh last December, before the American Philological Association. The Language and Literature Club at the University of Wisconsin is made up of the graduate students and the faculty members of all the language departments in the university. It has a membership of between one hundred and fifty and two hundred. Professor Scott's address made a very favorable impression.

Under the auspices of the department of classics of the University of Wisconsin Professor Norman W. DeWitt, of the University of Toronto, came to Madison and gave the following lectures: Thursday, April 1, 3:30–5:30 P.M., "Servius, a Fourth-Century Bookworm"; Friday, April 2, 4:30 P.M., "Virgil, the Romanticist"; Saturday, April 3, 9:00 A.M., "Virgil and the Greek Tragedy." The lecture on Friday was open to the public. The other two were intended primarily for graduate students and were attended by members of the classical faculty of the university and of the various colleges in the state. The latter had come to Madison for the express purpose of hearing Professor DeWitt, but while there a movement was started to form a Wisconsin Classical Association which will meet twice each year—once in November in connection with the State Teachers' Association and a second time in April. Members of the various college faculties and of the university department of classics, normal-school teachers, and high-school teachers will make up the membership of this proposed association, from which it is hoped the cause of classics in Wisconsin will be greatly benefited. At the meeting on April 3 there were present from the colleges in the state Professor Grace Goodrich, of Ripon College; Professor John Daland, of Milton College; Professor

Lena B. Tomson, of Milwaukee-Downer College, and Professor Arthur H. Weston, of Lawrence College. These visitors are also officers of the Latin League of Wisconsin Colleges, and while there arranged for the annual competition of this League, which will be held on April 30 at the university. Students from all the colleges in the state, except from the College of Letters and Science of the university, compete by written examination for a prize of \$250. This competition, which has been carried on for several years, has done much to stimulate superior scholarship in Latin in the competing colleges.

Mr. Walter R. Bryan, who takes his Doctor's degree in June at the university, has just been appointed to the Markham Traveling Fellowship for the year 1920-21. Mr. Bryan, whose work has been in the departments of classics and ancient history, will spend his year abroad largely at Rome and Athens. This is the fourth time that this traveling fellowship, which is open to recent Ph.D's of this university, has been awarded to a candidate from the department of classics. The competition is open to all the departments of language and literature represented at the university.

Foreign

Athens.—Mr. B. H. Hill, director of the American School for Classical Studies at Athens, has recently been made an honorary citizen of Old Corinth, where the school has conducted extensive excavations. He is probably the first person to be so distinguished since the days of Herodes Atticus.

Major Henry B. Dewing, who has been in charge of the American Red Cross work in Greece since the large commission, at whose head was Lieutenant Colonel Capps of Princeton, was disbanded in July, 1919, will resume his position in the department of classics of Princeton University next autumn.

The archaeological schools of Athens are coming to life again. The officers of the French School are Director Ch. Picard and Secretary-General Plassart; of the Italian School, Director Della Seta; of the British School, Director Wace and Assistant Director Casson; of the American School, Director Hill and Secretary Blegen. Each of these schools has held an open meeting this spring, for the first time in several years. The American School expects to resume its regular work next October, with a full complement of fellows and students. Professor Charles Forster Smith of Wisconsin will go out as the annual professor.